

**RN98026**  
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

38. A combination according to claim 37, wherein the microfibrils have a mean diameter of less than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

39. A combination according to claim 36, wherein the microfibrils have a mean diameter of between 0.5 nm and 10 nm.

40. A combination according to claim 36, wherein the microfibrils have a ratio: mean length of the microfibrils L/ mean diameter of the microfibrils D, greater than or equal to 15.

41. A combination according to claim 36, wherein the microfibrils have a ratio: mean length of the microfibrils L/ mean diameter of the microfibrils D, greater than or equal to 100.

42. A combination according to claim 41, wherein the microfibrils have a mean diameter and a form factor which is defined as the ratio between the mean length of the microfibrils and its mean diameter such that their mean length always remains less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

43. A combination according to claim 37, wherein the cellulose microfibrils are surface-treated such that they bear a polypyrrole coat.

44. A combination according to claim 37, wherein the microfibrils are ceramic microfibrils.

45. A combination according to claim 44, wherein the microfibrils are asbestos, titanate, alumina, aluminium dihydroxycarbonate, or magnesium dihydroxycarbonate microfibrils.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

46. A combination according to claim 37, wherein the microfibrils are carbon microfibrils which are optionally hollow.
47. A combination according to claim 37, wherein the microfibrils are organic microfibrils.
48. A combination according to claim 47, wherein the microfibrils are polyvinyl alcohol, polyamide or cellulose microfibrils.
49. A combination according to claim 47, wherein the microfibrils are cellulose microfibrils.
50. A combination according to claim 49, wherein the cellulose microfibrils are of plant, bacterial or animal origin.
51. A combination according to claim 49, wherein the microfibrils have a degree of crystallinity of less than or equal to 50%.
52. A combination according to claim 49, wherein the microfibrils essentially consist of 80% primary walls.
53. A combination according to claim 49, wherein the microfibrils are surface-charged with carboxylic acids or acidic polysaccharides.
54. A combination according to claim 49, wherein the microfibrils are combined with carboxylated cellulose, natural polysaccharides or polyols.
55. A combination according to claim 54, wherein the cellulose microfibrils are further combined with oside monomers; osides oligomers; compounds of formula  $(R^1R^2N)COA$ , wherein  $R^1$  or  $R^2$ , which are identical or different, represent hydrogen or a  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl radical, A represents hydrogen, a  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkyl radical or



62. A combination according to claim 37, wherein the mineral particles comprise carbon in their molecule, and are coated with at least one compound selected from the group consisting of oxides of elements from columns IIA, IIB, IIIB, IVA, IVB or VB of the Periodic Table of the Elements, hydroxides of elements from columns IIA, IIB, IIIB, IVA, IVB or VB of the Periodic Table of the Elements, hydroxycarbonates of elements from columns IIA, IIB, IIIB, IVA, IVB or VB of the Periodic Table of the Elements, alkali metal carbonates, alkaline-earth metal carbonates, hydrogen carbonates, and phosphates.

63. A combination according to claim 37, wherein the mineral particles have a specific surface between  $50 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and  $400 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

64. A combination according to claim 37, wherein the amount of microfibrils is between 0.1 g and 100 g, relative to 100 g of mineral particles.

65. A combination according to claim 64, wherein the amount of microfibrils is between 1 g and 10 g, relative to 100 g of mineral particles.

66. A combination according to claim 37, which is in dry form comprising microfibrils with a mean diameter of less than  $0.8 \mu\text{m}$ , and at least one mineral particle, obtained by preparing a suspension comprising the microfibrils and the mineral particles, which is dried.

67. A process for preparing a combination according to claim 66, comprising the steps of preparing a suspension comprising the microfibrils and the mineral particles, and drying said suspension.

68. A polymer comprising a combination as defined in claim 37.